

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

**List of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A coded identification system, the system comprising an electronic computer, a specific electronic communications device that is operable to be in communication with the electronic computer, and at least one electronic communications device that is operable to be in communication with the electronic computer, wherein the electronic computer includes data relating to the specific electronic communications device, including a permanent identification code, a mask code and an identification code enabling electronic communication between the electronic computer and the specific electronic communications device, and wherein the permanent identification code is input to the at least one electronic communications device and transmitted to the electronic computer, the electronic computer generates a pseudo-random string and transmits this to the specific electronic communications device, the mask code is applied to the pseudo-random string so as to generate a volatile identification code in accordance with predetermined rules, the volatile identification code is transmitted back to the electronic computer by the specific electronic communications device or the at least one electronic communications device, the electronic computer checks the volatile identification code transmitted thereto against a volatile identification code obtained by applying the mask code to the pseudo-random string in accordance with the predetermined rules, and in which a positive identification is made when the volatile identification codes are found to match by the electronic computer, wherein the pseudo-random string comprises a first ~~linear~~ array of characters, each character having a given numerical position in the first array (first, second, third etc.), and wherein the mask code comprises

a second ~~linear~~ array of numbers, each number having a given numerical position in the second array (first, second, third etc.), the predetermined rules for applying the mask code to the pseudo-random string so as to generate the volatile identification code being sequentially to select numerical positions in the first array on the basis of the numbers in the second array, taken in positional order, and to return the characters thereby selected from the first array in sequence so as to form a third ~~linear~~ array, this third ~~linear~~ array forming the volatile identification code.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented)      A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specific electronic communications device and the at least one electronic communications device are the same device.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented)      A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specific electronic communications device and the at least one electronic communications device are separate devices.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented)      A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the specific communications device is a mobile telephone, a pager or a personal digital assistant.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented)      A system as claimed in claim 3, wherein the at least one electronic communications device is an EFTPOS terminal or the like.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented)      A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the permanent identification code is supplied in the form of a card bearing human-and/or machine-readable indicia.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented)      A method for identifying a specific electronic communications device or user thereof to an electronic computer having stored therein data relating to the specific electronic communications device or user thereof, including a permanent identification code, a mask code and an identification code enabling communication between the electronic computer and the specific electronic communications device, wherein the permanent identification code is input to at least one electronic communications device and transmitted thereby to the electronic computer, the electronic computer associates the permanent identification code with the identification code enabling communication there between and the specific electronic communications device and generates a pseudo-random string before transmitting this to the specific electronic communications device, the mask code is applied to the pseudo-random string in accordance with predetermined rules so as to generate a volatile identification code, the volatile identification code is input to the specific electronic communications device or the at least one electronic communications device and transmitted to the electronic computer wherein it is compared with a volatile identification code generated therein by applying the mask code to the pseudo-random string, and a positive identification is made when the volatile identification codes match, wherein the pseudo-random string contains at least one character that is representative of some condition of the data relating to the person.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented)      A method for identifying a specific electronic communications device or user thereof to an electronic computer having stored therein data relating to the specific electronic communications device or user thereof, including a permanent identification code, a mask code and an identification code enabling communication between the electronic computer and the specific electronic communications device, wherein the permanent identification code is input to at least one electronic communications device and transmitted thereby to the electronic computer, the electronic computer associates the permanent identification code with the identification code enabling communication there between and the specific electronic communications device and generates a pseudo-random string before transmitting this to the specific electronic communications device, the mask code is applied to the pseudo-random string in accordance with predetermined rules so as to generate a volatile identification code, the volatile identification code is input to the specific electronic communications device or the at least one electronic communications device and transmitted to the electronic computer where it is compared with a volatile identification code generated therein by applying the mask code to the pseudo-random string, and a positive identification is made when the volatile identification codes match, wherein the pseudo-random string comprises a first ~~linear~~ array of characters, each character having a given numerical position in the first array (first, second, third etc.), and wherein the mask code comprises a second ~~linear~~ array of numbers, each number having a given numerical position in the second array (first, second, third etc.), the predetermined rules for applying the mask code to the pseudo-random string so as to generate the volatile identification code being sequentially to select numerical positions in the first array on the basis of the numbers in the second array, taken in

positional order, and to return the characters thereby selected from the first array in sequence so as to form a third ~~linear~~-array, this third ~~linear~~-array forming the volatile identification code.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 8, wherein the pseudo-random string contains at least one character that is representative of some condition of the data relating to the person.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 7, wherein the specific electronic communications device and the at least one electronic communications device are the same device.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 7, wherein the specific electronic communications device and the at least one electronic communications device are separate devices.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 10, wherein the specific communications device is a mobile telephone, a pager or a personal digital assistant.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 11, wherein the at least one electronic communications device is an EFTPOS terminal or the like.

Claims 14-15 (Canceled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 8, wherein the specific electronic communications device and the at least one electronic communications device are the same device.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 8, wherein the specific electronic communications device and the at least one electronic communications device are separate devices.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 17, wherein the specific communications device is a mobile telephone, a pager or a personal digital assistant.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented)      A method according to claim 18, wherein the at least one electronic communications device is an EFTPOS terminal or the like.

Claim 20 (Previously Amended)      A coded identification system, the system comprising an electronic computer, a specific electronic communications device that is operable to be in communication with the electronic computer, and at least one electronic communications device that is operable to be communication with the electronic computer, wherein the electronic computer includes data relating to the specific electronic communications device, including a permanent identification codes, a mask code and an identification code enabling electronic communication between the electronic computer and the specific electronic communications device, and wherein the permanent identification code is input to the at least one electronic communications device and

transmitted to the electronic computer, the electronic computer generates a pseudo-random string and transmits this to the specific electronic communications device, the mask code is applied to the pseudo-random string so as to generate a volatile identification code in accordance with predetermined rules, the volatile identification code is transmitted back to the electronic computer by the specific electronic communications device or the at least one electronic communications device, the electronic computer checks the volatile identification code transmitted thereto against a volatile identification code obtained by applying the mask code to the pseudo-random string in accordance with the predetermined rules, and in which a positive identification is made when the volatile identification codes are found to match by the electronic computer, wherein the pseudo-random string contains at least one character that is representative of some condition of the data relating to the person.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented)      A system according to claim 1, wherein the pseudo-random string contains at least one character that is representative of some condition of the data relating to the person.

Claim 22 (New)      A method according to claim 7, wherein the user is able to first identify to the host the position of the representative character in the pseudorandom string, and secondly identify to the host the meaning of the representative character in the pseudorandom string.

Claim 23 (New)      A system according to claim 7, wherein the user is able to first identify to the host the position of the representative character in the pseudorandom string, and secondly identify to the host the meaning of the representative character in the pseudorandom string.

Claim 24 (New)      A method according to claim 20, wherein the user is able to first identify to the host the position of the representative character in the pseudorandom string, and secondly identify to the host the meaning of the representative character in the pseudorandom string.

Claim 25 (New)      A system according to claim 20, wherein the user is able to first identify to the host the position of the representative character in the pseudorandom string, and secondly identify to the host the meaning of the representative character in the pseudorandom string.